NOTE XX.

OBSERVATIONS RELATING EUPETAURUS CINEREUS, OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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(Plate 7, figs. 1 and 2).

Mr. Oldfield Thomas has described in the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, 1888, p. 256, a very interesting and aberrant *Pteromys*-form under the name *Eupetaurus cinereus*. He remarked that in the Leyden Museum were not improbably a melanoid and a normal example of this species. This supposition he based upon quotations by Anderson in his well known »Yunnan Expedition".

As the species under consideration seems to be a very rare one, at least in zoological collections, it has its interest to know if the two named specimens in the Leyden Museum really belong to *E. cinereus* and — if so — how far the characteristics given by Thomas are constant.

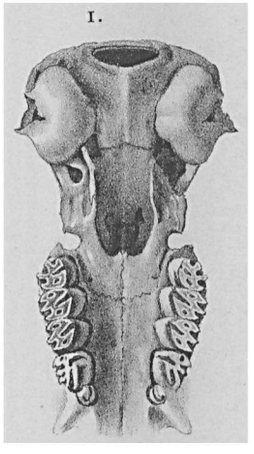
One of our specimens, the individual presented to our Museum by Lord Walden and collected in Kashmir, certainly does not belong to *E. cinereus*, as its ears, skull and dentition prove, but probably is a melanoid form of *Pteromys albiventer* as suggested by Anderson.

The other specimen, however, said to be from Tibet, really is an *Eupetaurus cinereus*, although not an adult one like the specimen the skull of which has been figured and discussed by Oldfield Thomas, l. c. pl. XXIII. Just in the not so advanced age of our specimen lies the scientific

value of it, as — owing to the worn state of the teeth in the single available skull (Thomas' type) — it was impossible to Oldfield Thomas to say how many extra superficial grooves there may have been. The very exactly drawn figures (plate 7, figs. 1 and 2) will give a clear idea of the peculiarities of the teeth and at the same time show the form of the tympanic bullae, which were smashed in the skull of the type figured in the J. A. S. B. above mentioned.

Our specimen from Tibet agrees in size, color of the fur and peculiarities of the skull exactly with Thomas' accurate description.

The discovery of this new form among the flying squirrels anew is a proof of the acute discernment of Mr. Oldfield Thomas. It only is to be regretted that he has chosen the name *cinereus* for his new species, a specific title very easy to confound with the name *cineraceus* bestowed by Blyth on another *Pteromys*-species too from the Indian continent.



R. Raar ad nat. del. et lith.

P. W. M. Trap impr.

1, 2. Eupetaurus cinereus *O. Thomas*.